

Keep Trump busy while we pursue real reform

By Tim O'Toole

Back in 1961, Billie Sol Estes, a confidant of Lyndon Johnson, applied for some agriculture loans, using the same handful of tractors and silos as collateral. He graciously flew the auditors from one side of Texas to the other, in his private plane, so they could conduct inventory. Meanwhile, his staff were changing the numbers on the silos, and gluing new serial numbers over the old on his tractors. Once the paint and glue

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dried, he'd fly the auditors back to the other side of the state, so they could inventory the "additional" property.

This was just one of his many moneymaking schemes that eventually lead to his conviction and incarceration, plus a number of suspicious "suicides" worthy of further study.

Why bring this up in 2019? Because it gave me the following idea: The U.S.-Mexico border is even

bigger than Texas, and President Donald Trump has a plane — Air Force One. Instead of spending billions on a wall along our southern border, why not just invest a million here, a million there to fabricate a few miles of "beautiful" walls for the president to inspect. This would satisfy his monomaniacal ego — and save the taxpayers billions, which could then be directed toward more meaningful border issues, including more immigration judges and improved housing for those awaiting refugee rulings.

Of course, these sections of wall need not be constructed near the Mexico border, but they should stretch east to west to mimic a border wall. Perhaps erect them along the Oklahoma-Texas state line.

For national security considerations (like all those alleged terrorists poised at the border with Stinger missiles), Trump would visit each section in secret, lest "fake" news outlets like PBS, NPR, or The New York Times be compelled to let the cat out of the bag.

Not that Trump would ever read a newspaper or watch PBS. But those pesky folks at Fox News. ...

Estes eventually served time in federal prison for various scams and tax frauds. But we just need to pull the wool over Trump's eyes for two more years. And we wouldn't even have to paint and repaint serial numbers on the wall panels when he inspected them. Worth a thought.

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